



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Appropriations Committee Testimony  
February 14, 2017

Good afternoon, Senator Osten, Senator Formica, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Dora Schriro, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and I am joined by the Department's Deputy Commissioners and Division Heads. We appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today.

I would like to begin by saying that we support Governor Malloy's recommended budget as outlined, and to express our appreciation for the Governor's and Lt. Governor's steadfast support for the whole of the first responder community and for our department's workforce.

This year's budget comes with any number of challenges but with challenges, come opportunities. I want to assure you, that we will continue to do our part to help address the state's current budget situation, striving to be as effective and efficient as possible with the resources we are provided, doing all that we can to maximize Connecticut communities' safety and wellbeing.

Building upon the substantive work that DESPP's six divisions has undertaken over the past biennial budget cycle, I am confident that we are positioned to make the very most of our assets. If you do not mind, I would like to touch briefly upon several of the milestones we met since last we met:

- Department-wide, DESPP significantly lowered its use of overtime (OT) between FY2016 and FY2017 (through PP16): We reduced non-reimbursable OT by 68,835 hours and \$4.1 million.
  - The majority of the savings are attributed to the Division of State Police, which lowered its utilization of OT by 65,899 hours and \$3.9 million.
- DESPP also increased its recoupment of reimbursable OT by 6%, during FY2016, reaching a new high of \$12,585,126.
- DESPP received a total of \$38,339,883 in grant funds, a combination of new and renewed monies, over the past two years.
- The State Police contributed to public safety in several significant new ways.
  - The CSP trained and equipped all troopers to administer naloxone; sworn staff responded to 154 opioid overdose calls and participated in 144 lifesaving measures since the program's inception.

- CSP also trained all troopers to identify and refer victims of domestic violence (DV) determined to be at imminent risk of harm to local DV providers; since inception, 975 of 1,919 screened DV victims (50%) were determined to be at imminent risk of which 891 (90%) accepted troopers' offer of referral to a DV provider.
- Working with the CT Career Fire Chiefs, DESPP's Fire Services established a working group to identify and break down barriers to minority recruitment in the fire service. DESPP also established a group to identify and break down barriers to minority recruitment in the CT State Police.
- DESPP's Division of Scientific Services (CT's Crime Lab) assumed the responsibility of post mortem toxicology testing and analysis on homicides, motor vehicle accidents, and traumatic suicides at no cost to the state, at the end of FY2016. Since then, the Lab completed 345 tests, informing both charging and defense decisions.
- In response to a need for a coordinated and collaborative approach to Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) and other data systems related to emergency management, DESPP's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) convened an Emergency Management Data established a task force of technical experts to inform the Governor's Unified Command, leveraging existing resources and eliminating duplicative initiatives.
- In the past two years, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) trained 372 municipal police officers, recertified 4,278 officers, and offered 194 in-service training courses.
- In each of the past two years, the Commission on Fire Prevention and Control's Connecticut Fire Academy trained 6,864 (FY2015) and 6,597 (FY2016) career and volunteer fire service personnel, and certified 2,722 (FY2015) and 2,629 (FY2016) firefighters to national professional qualification standards, and offered 444 (FY2015) and 431 (FY2016) training programs statewide.

In sum, you can count on us to continue to pursue policies and practices that are evidence-based, cost-effective, improve outcomes, and benefit the commonweal, during these difficult economic times, and in every economic environment.

Thank you kindly for your attention. We are prepared to answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner

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